



STATE OF MARYLAND

DHMH

Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
Mental Hygiene Administration
Spring Grove Hospital Center – Dix Building
55 Wade Avenue – Catonsville, Maryland 21228

Martin O'Malley, Governor – Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor – John M. Colmers, Secretary

Brian M. Hepburn, M.D., Executive Director

TO: PMHS Providers

FROM: Brian Hepburn, M.D.
Executive Director, MHA

RE: Policy Clarification

DATE: April 6, 2009

This memorandum clarifies several Public Mental Health System (PMHS) reimbursement issues.

- Effective May 1, 2009, MHA will only provide reimbursement for individuals with Medicare for Psychiatric Rehabilitation Program (PRP) services, non reimbursed Mobile Treatment/ACT services, and mental health evaluation and treatment services provided by Independent Practitioners. The PMHS will not reimburse, as the primary payer, for services covered by Medicare for Medicare recipients served by Outpatient Mental Health Clinics (OMHC). The PMHS will only reimburse services delivered to individuals who are dually eligible, Medicaid and Medicare, when the service is provided by a licensed professional counselor who is not part of an OMHC after the licensed professional counselor has explored all other billing options such as billing according to the Medicare "incident to" provisions.
- Eye movement integration therapy (EMI) and eye movement desensitization and reprocessing (EMDR) are not services reimbursed by the PMHS.
- All PMHS services require preauthorization except emergency services and some initial psychiatric inpatient consultation services. Please refer to March 2, 2009 memorandum. No exceptions will be granted
- Amendments to COMAR 10.21.25 were adopted March 23, 2009. This includes rules for billing that apply to all PMHS providers. Regulations may be downloaded on www.dsd.state.md.us
- For OMHCs, a diagnosis (not diagnostic impression) needs to be rendered by the individual's second visit by a licensed mental health professional following a face-to-face evaluation. (COMAR 10.21.20.06A). The Social Work licensing regulations stipulate that an LGSW can only provide diagnostic impressions; they cannot render a diagnosis. Refer to Annotated Code of Maryland - Health Occupations Article - Title 19 -19-307(c) (2)

Thank you for your attention to this matter.